

TOP SECRET

INFORMATION
August 14, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL HAIG
FROM: TOM LATIMER
SUBJECT: Reported Presence of East European
Military Representatives in Mongolia

Director Helms has sent you the attached memo (Tab A) which reports Peking-inspired rumors about East European military representatives in Mongolia and reports of the impending establishment of a Warsaw Pact force on the Sino-Soviet border. He goes on to cast doubts about the validity of such rumors.

NGA Review Complete

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10 August 1972

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Reported Presence of East European Warsaw
Pact Military Representatives in Mongolia

1. The Chinese have reportedly originated stories that East European military representatives are present in Mongolia and of the impending establishment of an integrated Warsaw Pact force on the Sino-Soviet border.

a. According to the Chinese military attache in Moscow, there are Polish, Czechoslovakian, and Bulgarian military representatives in Mongolia studying the terrain and climate. The attache viewed this as being hostile to China.

b. A rumor has been making the rounds of various East European capitals about the formation of a multi-national, integrated Warsaw Pact force to be deployed on the Sino-Soviet border. The size of the rumored force varies from one to five divisions (with five East European countries each providing one division--presumably Romania is excluded). Western diplomatic personnel in Eastern Europe believe the rumor is of Chinese origin.

2. Although these reports are the first attributed to the Chinese about an East European military presence in Mongolia or elsewhere on the Sino-Soviet border, East European military involvement in Sino-Soviet affairs has been rumored for years. Most of the rumors in the past have originated with East European sources and have ranged from the alleged temporary or permanent deployment of combat units to contingency planning for deployments to the border in the event of hostilities. In one recent report the Soviets were said to be proposing the formation of an integrated Warsaw Pact airborne division which would be sent to Mongolia. The report further stated that the proposal was dropped after objections from the East European Warsaw Pact countries. In no case have the reports been confirmed. 25X1

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3. It is significant that there has been no mention of any Polish or other East European military involvement in Sino-Soviet affairs in the voluminous series of sensitive clandestine reports on the Polish armed forces. This series of reports has covered all aspects of Polish military activity including policy, planning, and military relations with other Warsaw Pact countries. There is neither mention nor suggestion that the Poles have planned for military contingencies involving China or that military representatives have visited Mongolia or the Sino-Soviet border area in an official capacity. Polish or East European military involvement would be a sensitive political issue of sufficient significance to be mentioned or alluded to in the documents.

4. During early July the Sino-Soviet border area including Mongolia was covered on satellite photography. Areas in the Central Asian Military District, most of the Transbaikal Military District, and the northern portion of the Far East Military District were covered. In Mongolia, the eastern third of the country was covered as well as other areas of military concentration. No new ground force combat units were identified in these areas. The Soviets are constructing a new radar in Mongolia giving improved early warning capability for air defense and allowing the monitoring of Chinese missile and space activities at the test centers in eastern China. A new air regiment equipped with MIG-17 fighters was also observed at Zhangiztobe in the Central Asian Military District. Outside the immediate border area, the Soviets had deployed a new division at Itatka in the Siberian Military District. The forces in this district would be used to reinforce the divisions in the border area.

5. The Soviets have made efforts to involve the East Europeans in their problems with China but the main thrust of their efforts appears to have been aimed at gaining political support rather than military cooperation. In short, there is no good evidence that the East Europeans have sent or are planning to send military forces to the Sino-Soviet border area.

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